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Marvel

23rd Feb. 1996
No 218 90p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

As seen on TV!

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

FREE

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New stories! Games and puzzles!

ALL AB

Notice Board!

Peep! Peep! There's lots of excitement in this issue of Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends, as well as great new stories! In **The wrong work**, a new timetable causes a fuss in the engine shed. But worse is still to come! Meanwhile, Thomas hurries to the rescue again, in **The grocer's engine!** There are fun pancake day puzzles to enjoy, as well as a great new way to draw Thomas. All this, plus great colouring to do and stylish sweatshirts to win in our competition! **Peep! Peep!**

WIN

a Thomas the Tank Engine sweatshirt and t-shirt set!

See page 17 for details!

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS is published fortnightly by **MARVEL COMICS LTD**. Chairman: Jim Galton; Managing Director: Richard Maskell; Managing Editor: Alan O'Keefe; Editor: Cynthia O'Neill; Project Leader: Jason Quinn; Art Director: Helen Nally; Design: Steve Rawlinson; Production: Mark Irvine, Andy Parslow. With thanks to Geoff Cowan, Tim Marwood and John York. Office of Publication: 13-15 Arundel St., London WC2R 3DX. All 'THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS' material copyright © William Heinemann Limited,1996. All television and merchandising rights licensed by William Heinemann Limited to Britt Allcroft (THOMAS) Ltd. exclusively worldwide. **'THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS'** is a trademark of Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Limited. All rights reserved. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this publication with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the UK. Distributed by Marketforce (UK) Ltd., 247 Tottenham Court Road, LONDON W1P OAU. Tel. 0171 261 5555. ISSN 0954-9390.

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THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

OARD!

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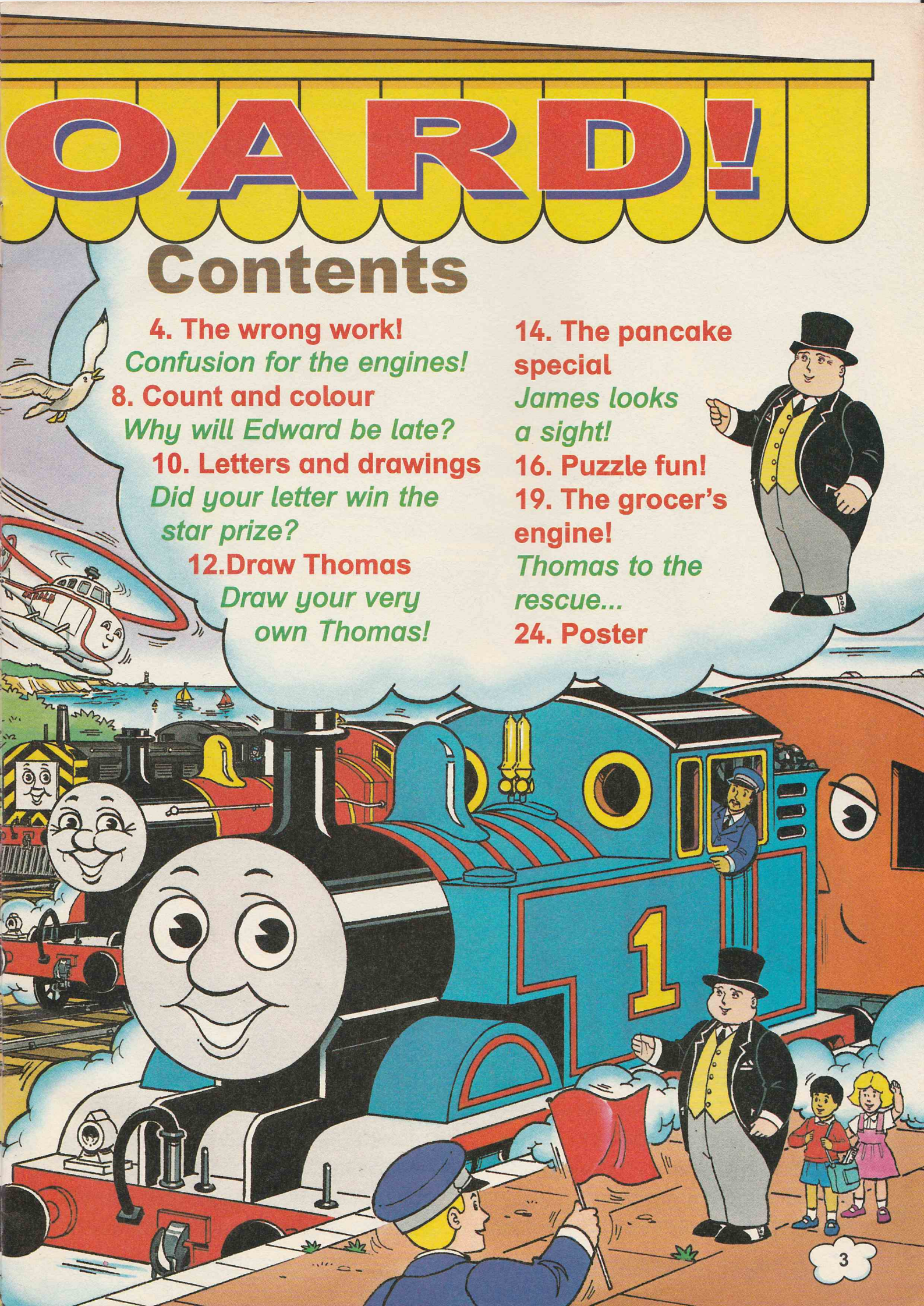
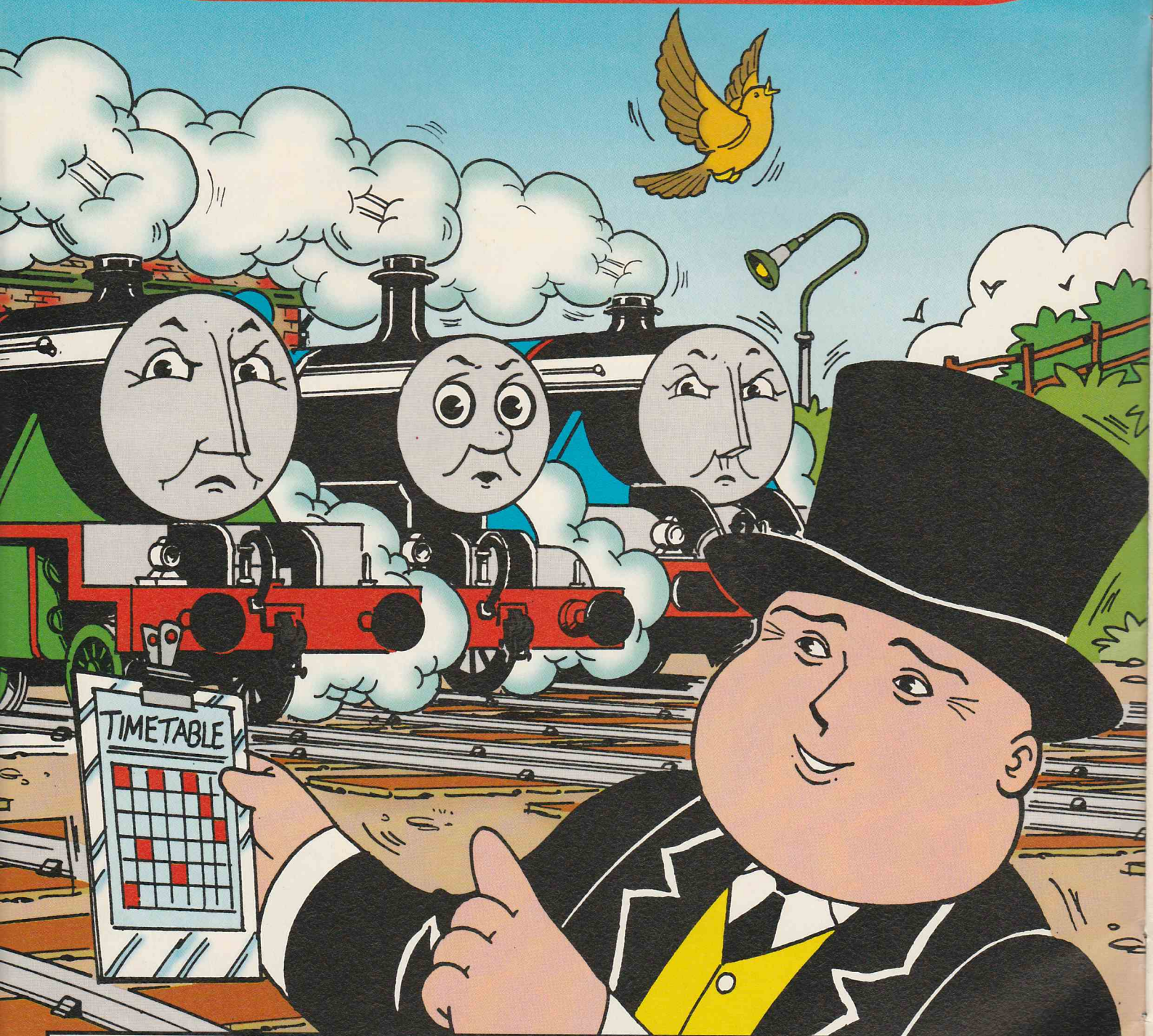


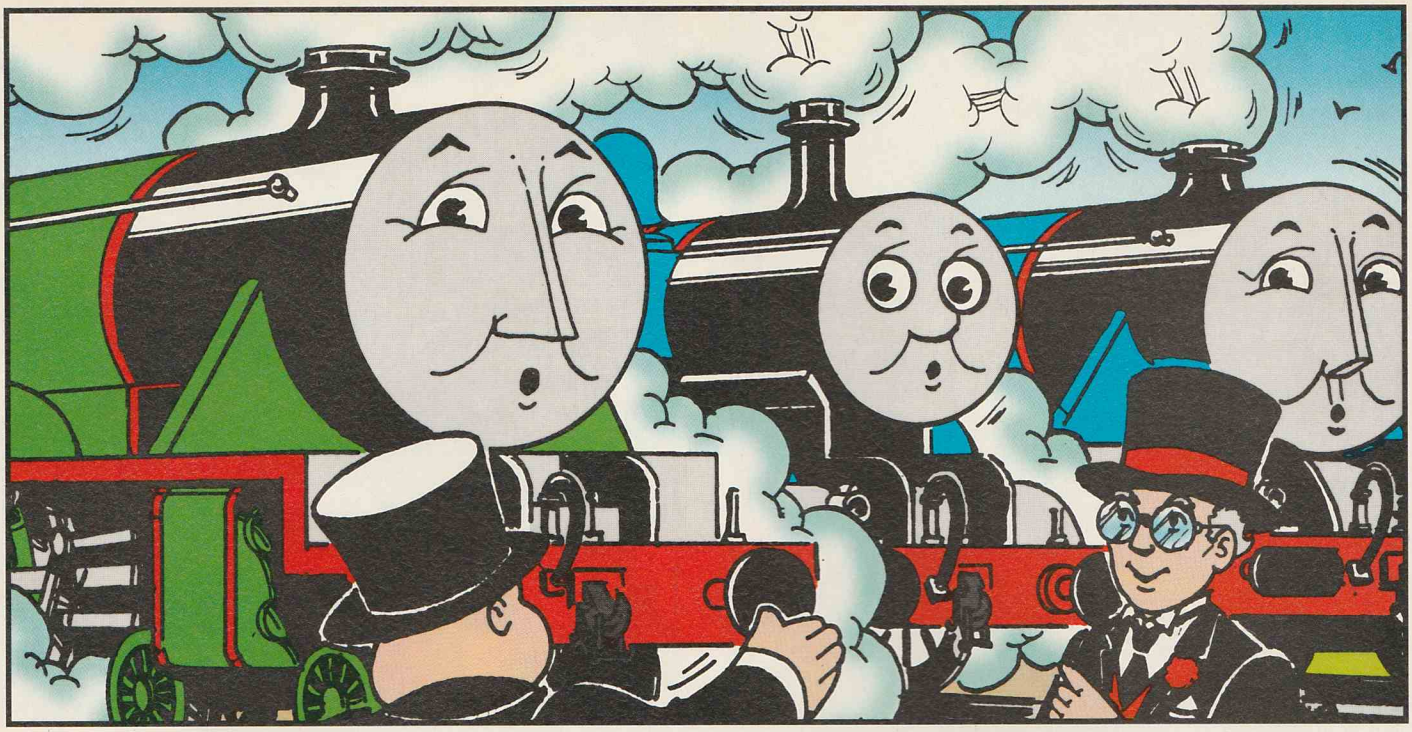
A LISTEN AND LEARN STORY

The wrong work!



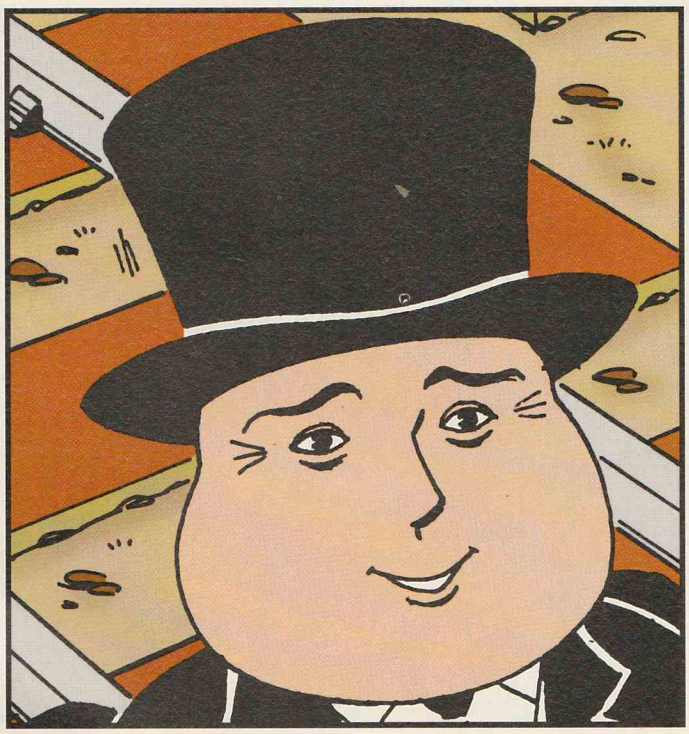
1. The Fat Controller's engines were not very pleased about the new timetable. It changed their train times. "It's confusing," they all grumbled. Some made a big fuss.

2. "I need the new timetable to make sure this railway runs efficiently," the Fat Controller told them. "You'll soon get used to it!" But the engines were cross.

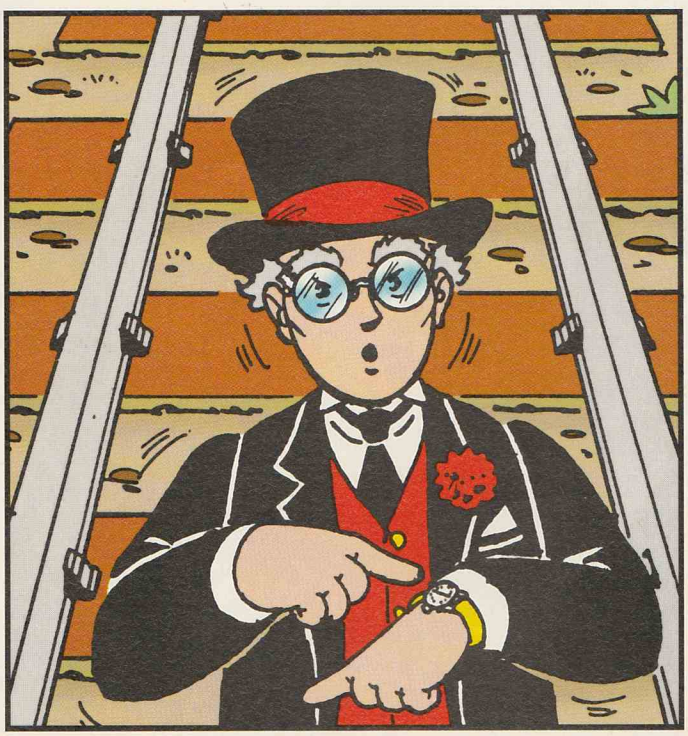


3. The next day, Henry collected a visitor to the Island of Sodor. Then the Fat Controller called all the engines together in the yard. He introduced them to the man.

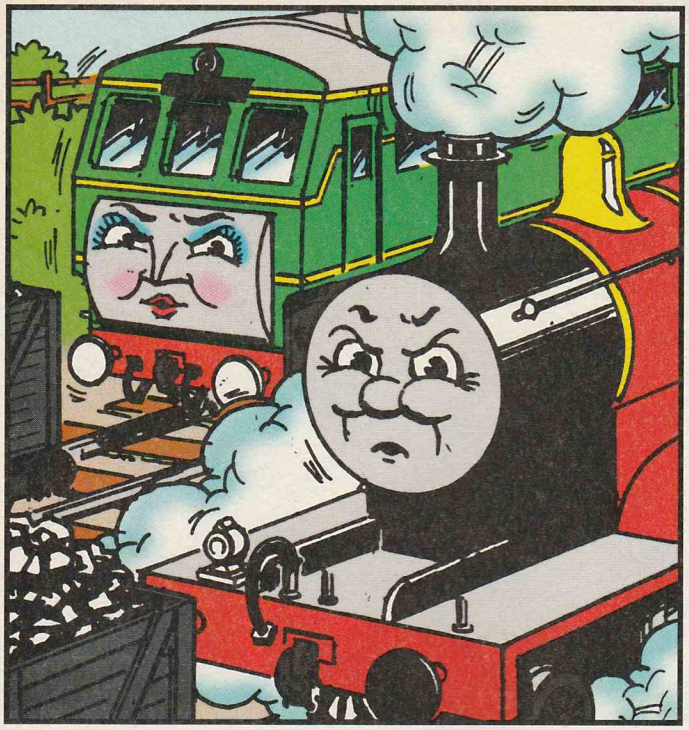
4. "This is a railway director from the Mainland," the Fat Controller said. "He'll be in charge of my railways from tomorrow." The engines were shocked. "Why?" they asked.



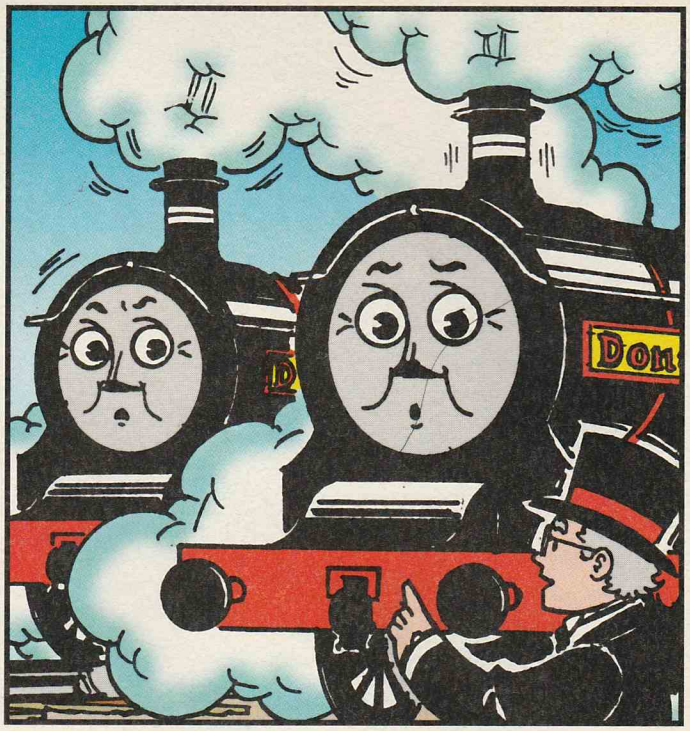
5. "The Director and I are changing jobs for a week," explained the Fat Controller. "Seeing how another railway runs may be really useful!" Harold flew him to the Mainland.



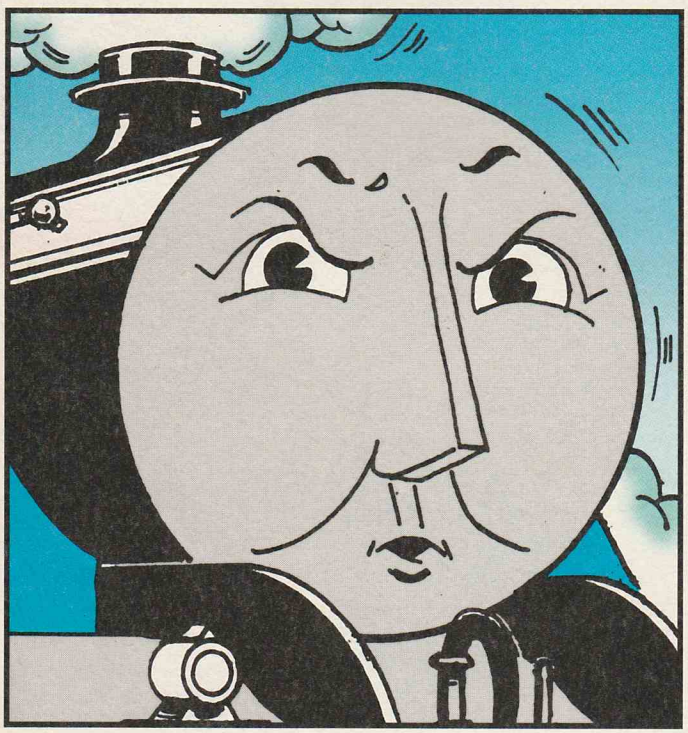
6. That night, the engines did not get much sleep. They were too busy talking about the new Director. In the morning, he woke them even earlier than usual to begin work.



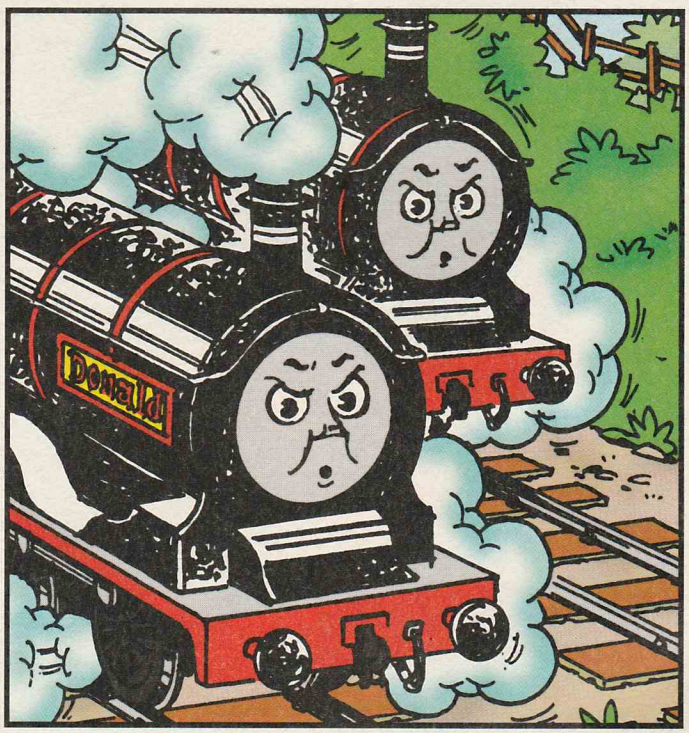
7. Daisy and James were to shunt coal trucks. "A smart red engine, like me, should pull passengers!" hissed James. "So should I! I'm so clean and modern," sniffed Daisy.



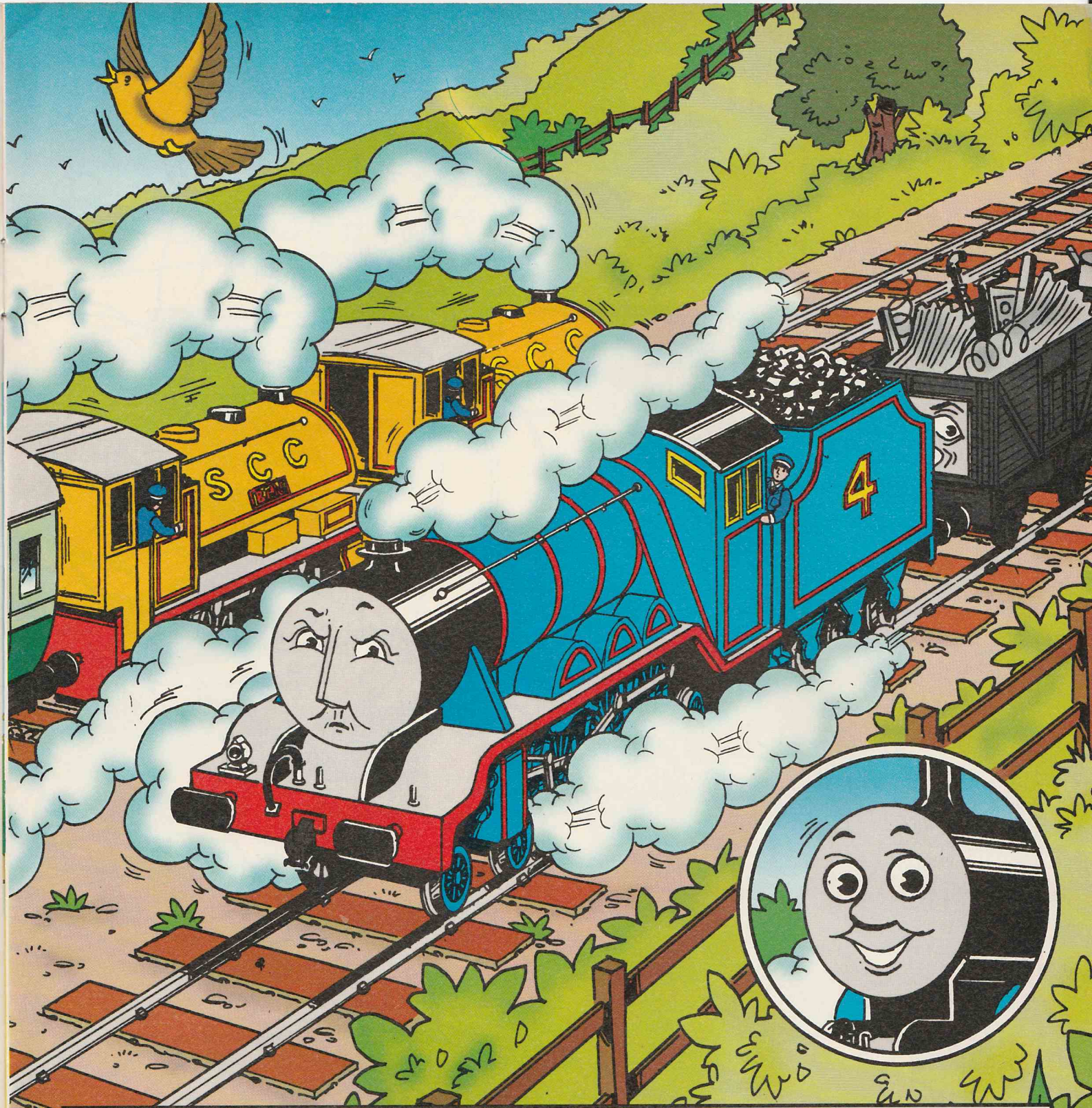
8. Soon they were both very dirty. Meanwhile, the Director told Donald and Douglas, the Scottish twins, to collect china clay. "Och! That's Bill and Ben's job!" they cried.



9. "They're to pull the Express," said the Director. "I always do that," snorted Gordon. "I'm the fastest and strongest engine!" But the Director had another job for him.

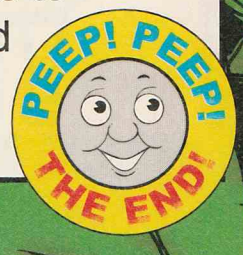


10. Later, Donald and Douglas came back from Brendam Bay covered in dust. Bill and Ben found the Express was very heavy. They could hardly get up Gordon's Hill.



11. Gordon was coming the other way, with an extra long goods train full of scrap. "Pah! Look at me! It's disgraceful!" he fumed. "It's not fair," agreed Bill and Ben. Things were no better for Thomas. He was sent to the quarry line while Toby had to pull Annie and Clarabel. "Stop bumping us!" shouted the carriages. "Sorry!" said Toby. "I'm not used to this!"

12. The poor engines were very unhappy. They were glad to see the Fat Controller return. When the new Director had gone home, they could work normally. "Oh, welcome back, Sir!" said Thomas. "We've learned how lucky we are to have you in charge!" And no one moaned about the new timetable again.



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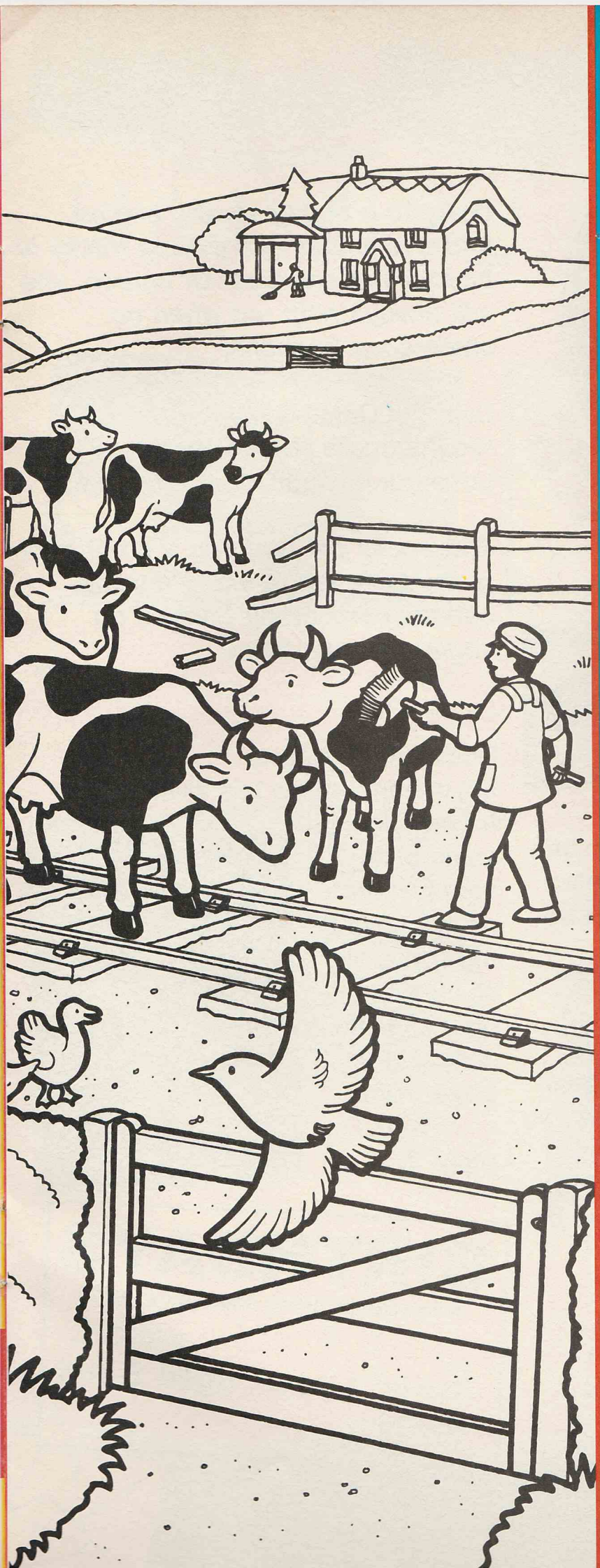
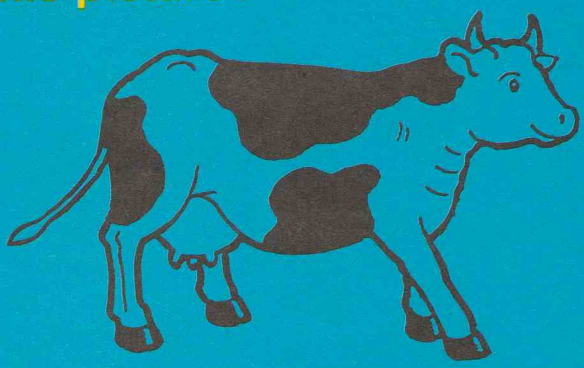


Count and colour!

Edward looks a bit dismayed,
Some cows have left their field and strayed!
The guard and driver tell them 'shoo,'
All the cows do is say 'moo!'
Poor old Edward! He'll be late!
Till the cows are gone, he'll have to wait!

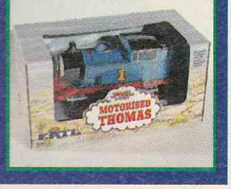
How many cows and and sheep can you see in this picture?



YOUR LETTERS

STAR LETTER!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our STAR LETTER will win one of these Thomas push and pull motorised engines!



Dear Fat Controller,
My little brother Ross is three and he loves your engines. He gets the comics every two weeks and he loves them too!
Love Amy Mulderrig, aged 6.

The engines love to hear that children everywhere enjoy their adventures! I am glad to tell you all that soon we will have even more pages in our comic. There will be lots more to read and do!

Dear Fat Controller,
Is Daisy a lazy engine? Why doesn't she like pulling trucks?
Love Rohan Bailey, aged 4.

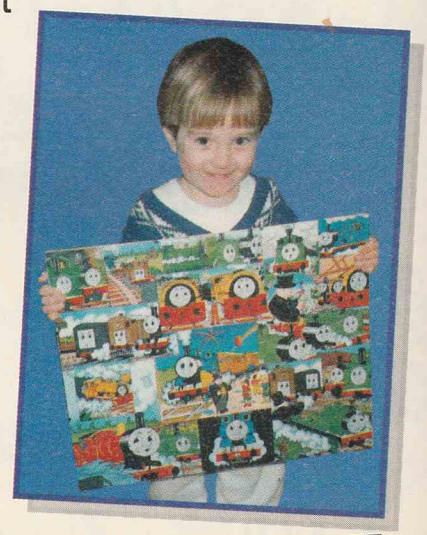
Daisy is a highly-sprung engine, and she knows that pulling trucks is bad for her swerves! Of course, she will always help out when an emergency happens.

Dear Fat Controller,
Are the trucks always naughty?
Love Jamie MacDonald, aged 6.

The trucks are naughty a great deal of the time, I'm afraid. They will behave particularly badly if an engine annoys them!

PHOTO OF THE FORTNIGHT

Dear Fat Controller,
My mummy made this lovely poster for me. She cut some of my very favourite pictures out of my comic and stuck them onto a piece of card.
Love from Jake Miller, aged 2.

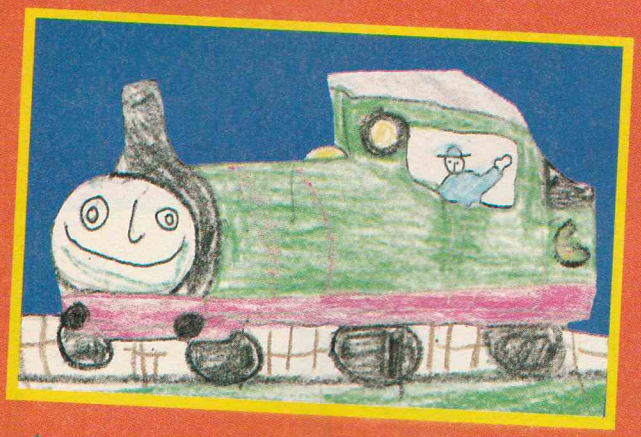


BIRTHDAYS

A special birthday hello goes out to
Sinead Stoddart, aged 1, Daniel Allway, aged 2 and Elliot Haugh, aged 2

Drawing Board!

Thanks to everyone who has sent us a splendid drawing recently. The engines do love to see your pictures!



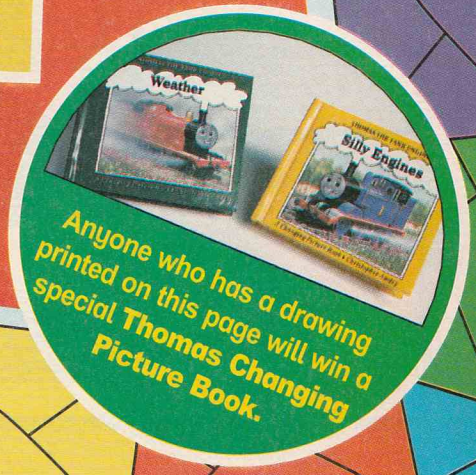
Percy's driver is giving a big wave in this friendly picture by **Benjamin Hyde**, aged 4.

This colourful picture of Terence, busily planting flowers, is from **Edward Bradley**, aged 5.

Here's Thomas with a happy engineer, drawn by **Zachary Fisher**, aged 5.

Stephen Barker, aged 6, sent us this drawing of Godred, looking very fine!

Send your drawings of Thomas and his friends to: The Fat Controller's Drawing Board, Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel St., London, WC2R 3DX.

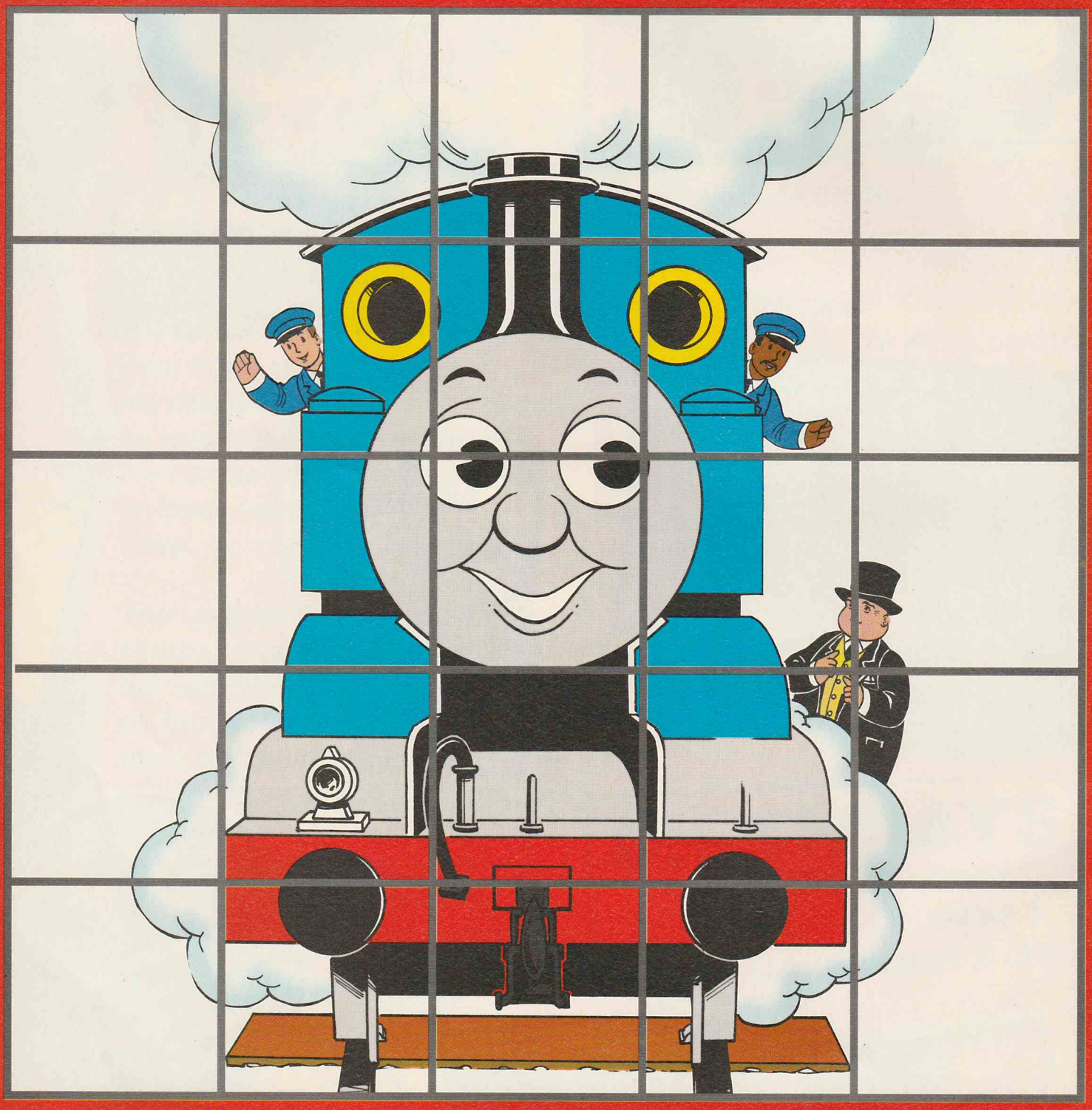


Let's draw

Here's a clever way to help you draw a perfect pict

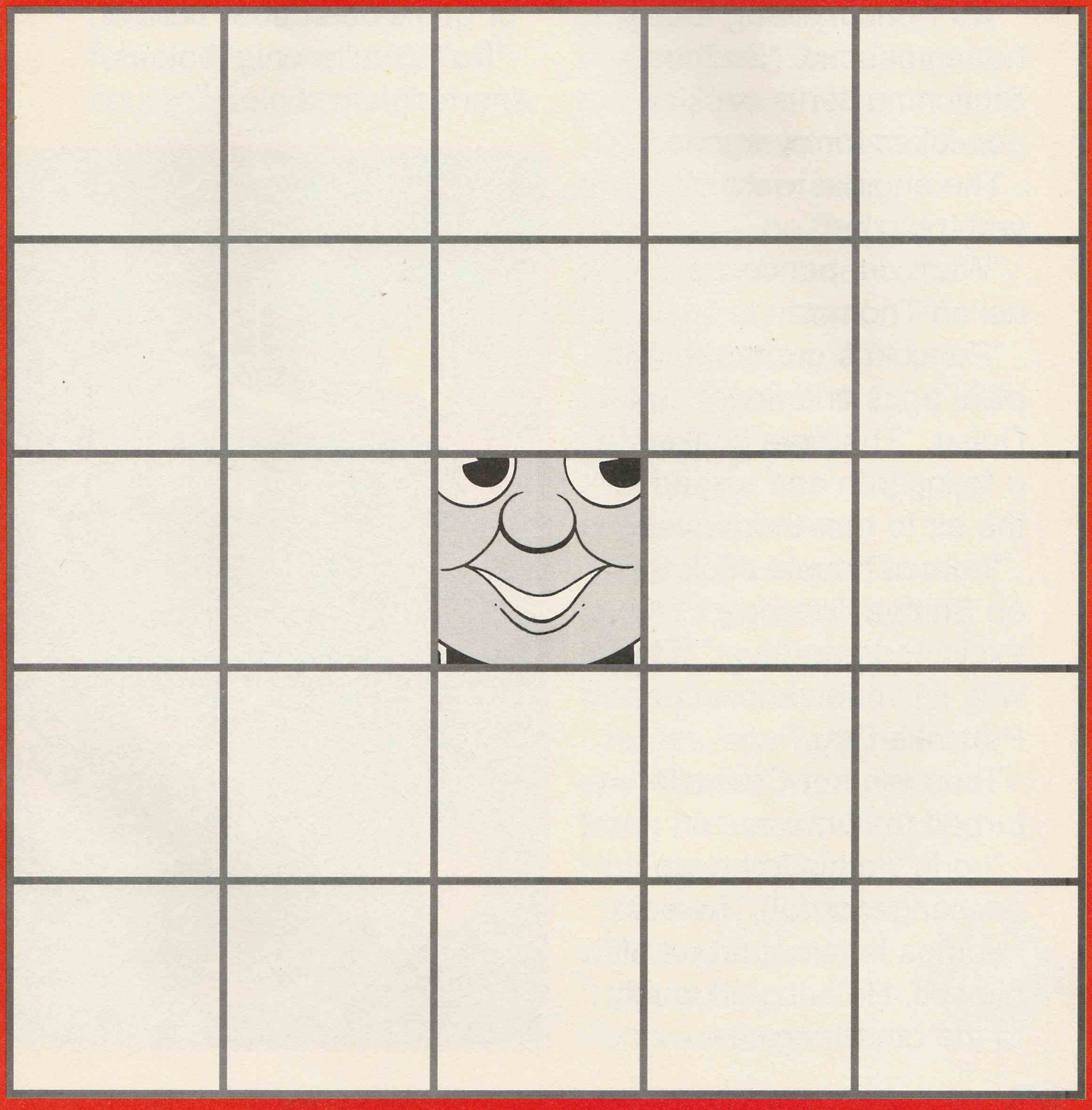
Now take your pencils and carefully copy the lines i

opposite. (We've filled in one square to help you b



y Thomas!

ure of Thomas! Look at the picture on the left page.
n each square into the matching square on the page
begin.) When you have finished, colour in Thomas!



The pancake special

One Tuesday, the engines stood in the Main Station yard while the Fat Controller spoke to all their crews.

"It's Pancake Day today," he announced. "So the Stationmaster is cooking pancakes for everyone."

The engines were all very puzzled.

"What are pancakes?" asked Thomas.

"Pancakes are made with milk, eggs and flour," said Daisy. "They are cooked in a frying pan and tossed in the air to turn them over!"

"Lots of people cook them on Shrove Tuesday," explained her driver. "That's why it is often known as Pancake Day."

Then the Fat Controller turned to James.

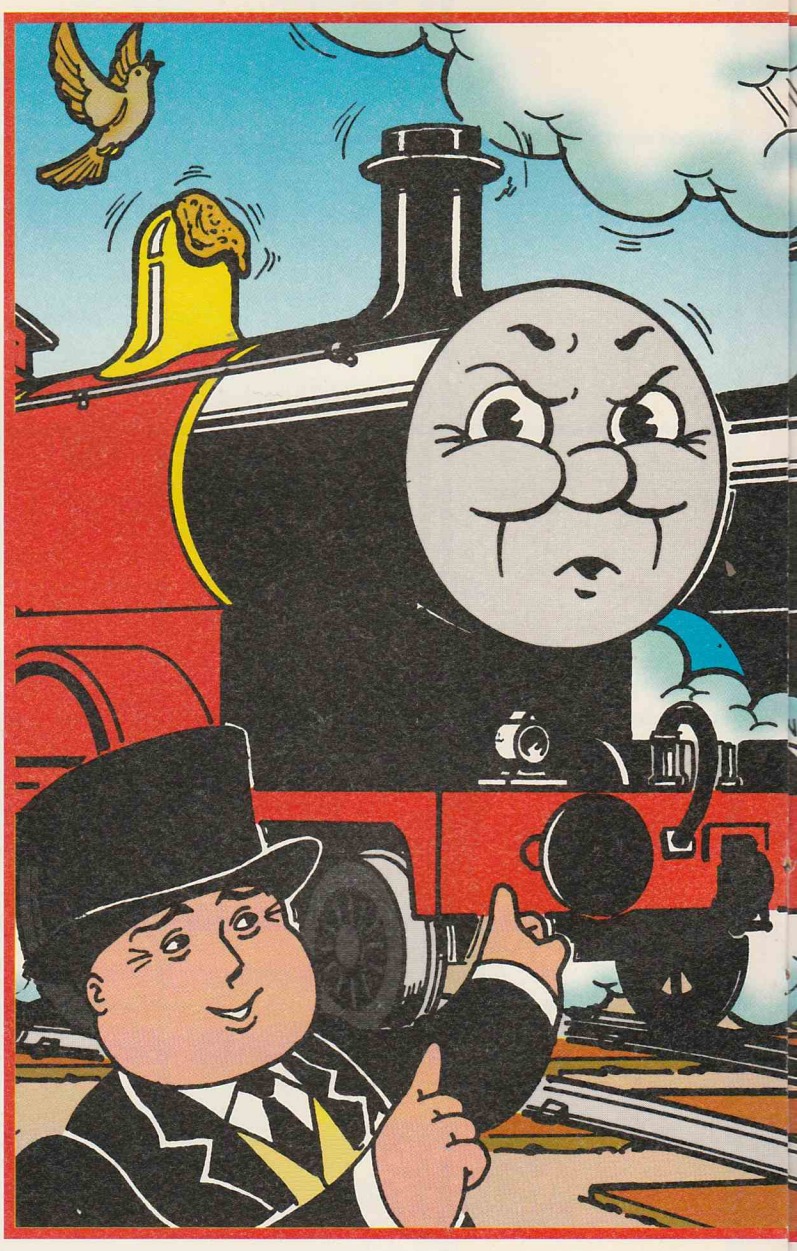
"Lady Hatt is to be your passenger today," he said.

James felt very proud of himself. He boasted loudly to the other engines.

"I was picked because I'm so smart, with my shiny brass dome," he said.

"Don't puff yourself up too much," teased Percy, "or you'll burst your boiler!"

"Pah! You're only jealous," snorted James.



At that moment the Stationmaster hurried into the yard. He was carrying a pancake in a big frying pan. He tossed the pancake into the air to show the railway staff. But he threw it too high. Instead of landing back in the pan, the pancake fell on James's dome! He looked very funny. The other engines couldn't help smiling.

"You don't look so smart now," laughed Percy.

"Get it off me!" hissed James, crossly.

The Stationmaster cooked tasty pancakes for all the staff. But James was still feeling grumpy when Lady Hatt arrived.

"I'm going to judge a pancake tossing competition," James heard her say to a driver.

James was startled. "I've had enough of silly pancakes!" he thought. He was worried more would land on top of him.

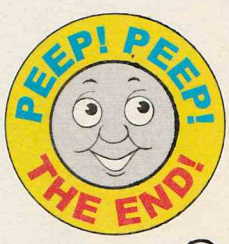
"What's wrong?" asked the Fat Controller. "You look shocked, James."

"Well, you see..." the red engine explained.

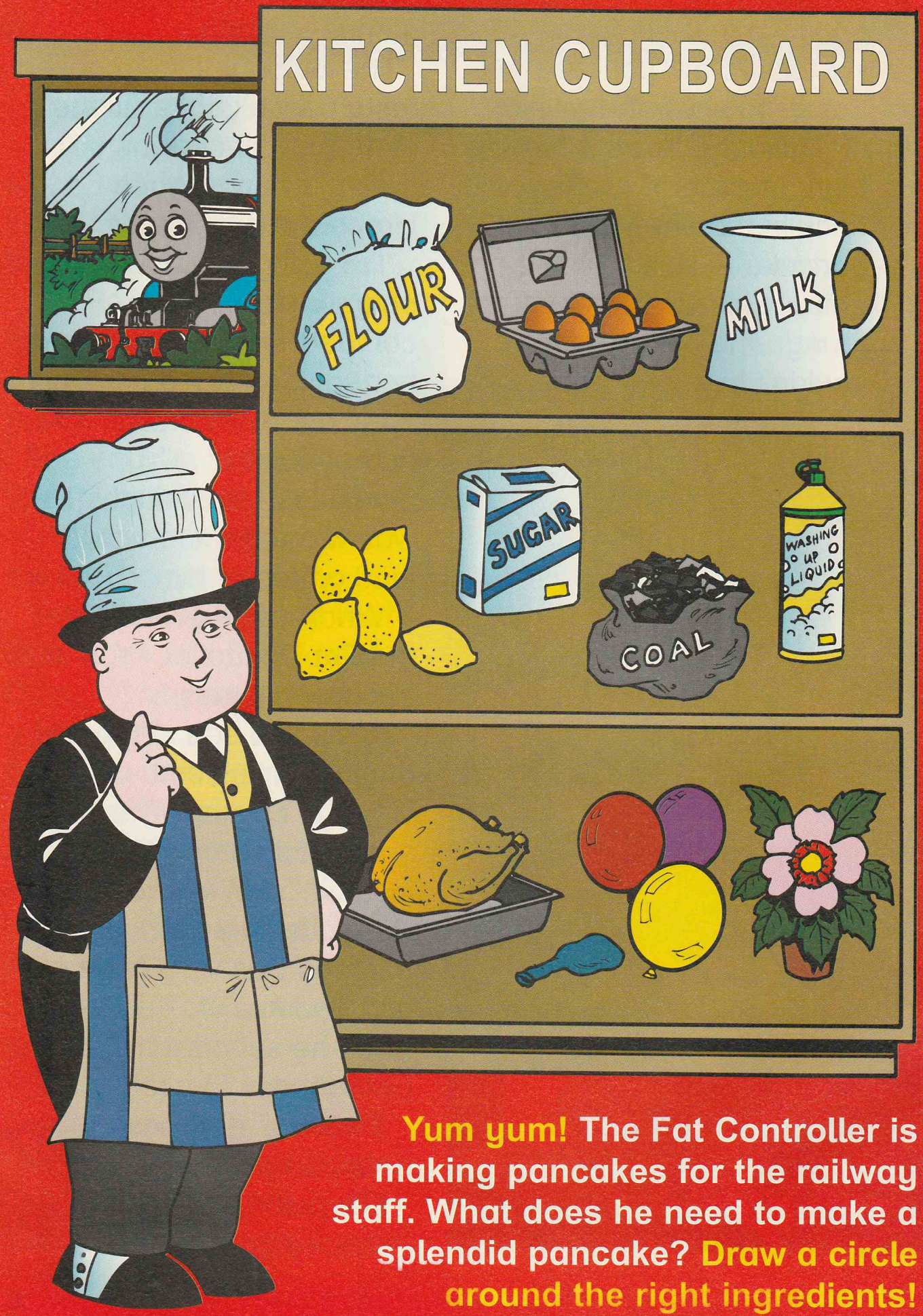
"Hmm. Perhaps Thomas should take Lady Hatt instead," replied the Fat Controller, thoughtfully.

James was very relieved, and Thomas was pleased. Soon he set off with Lady Hatt aboard Clarabel.

"Peeeep!" Thomas whistled to James. "I like pulling the Pancake Special!"



Pancake fun!



Yum yum! The Fat Controller is making pancakes for the railway staff. What does he need to make a splendid pancake? **Draw a circle around the right ingredients!**

WIN a Thomas the Tank Engine sweatshirt and t-shirt set!

We've got 20 of these stylish prizes to give away. The sets are available in age ranges 1-2, 3-4 and 5-6 and they look splendid! For your chance to win, simply answer the following question:

Which engine is very proud of his smart red paint?

Send your answers on a postcard, along with your name, address and shirt size, to: Thomas t-shirt competition, Heart Fashions and Designs, 37a High Street, Walsall Wood, W Midlands, WS9 9LR. All entries must be received by 28th February 1996. The first 20 correct answers selected after that date will win a prize!

Heart Fashions and Designs stock over 100 Thomas products in their mail order catalogue. For your FREE copy, telephone 01543 377182, quoting reference 217, or write to them at the competition address above.

This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of Marvel Comics Ltd, and Heart Fashions and Designs. We cannot accept any responsibility for prizes lost or damaged in the post. The Editor's decision is final, and no correspondence shall be entered into.

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

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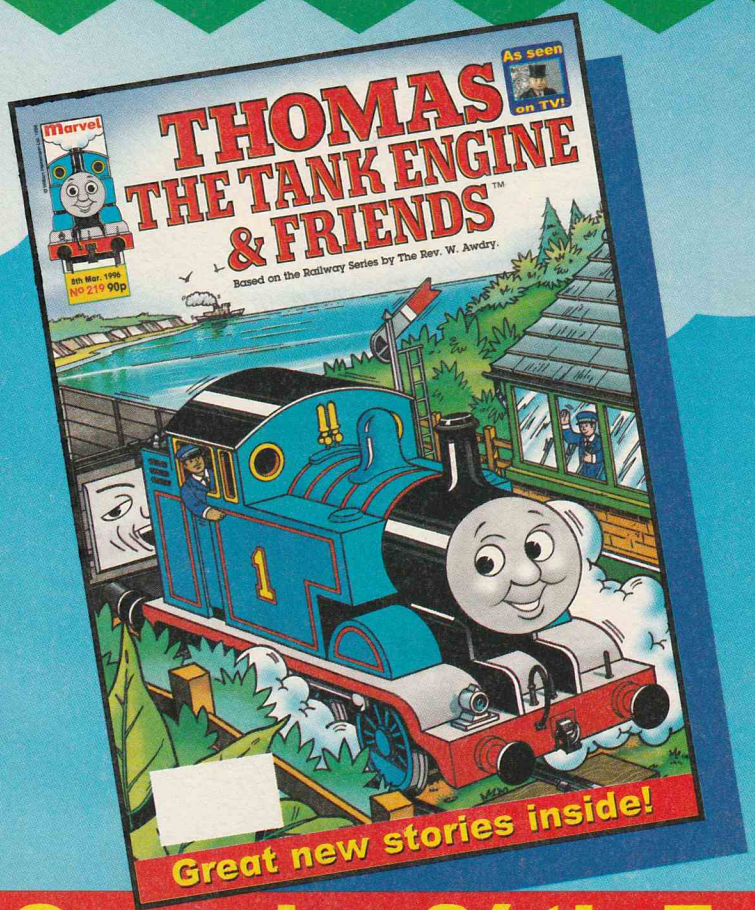
Coming soon, in. . .



Issue 219 of THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

News of big changes to your Thomas comic!

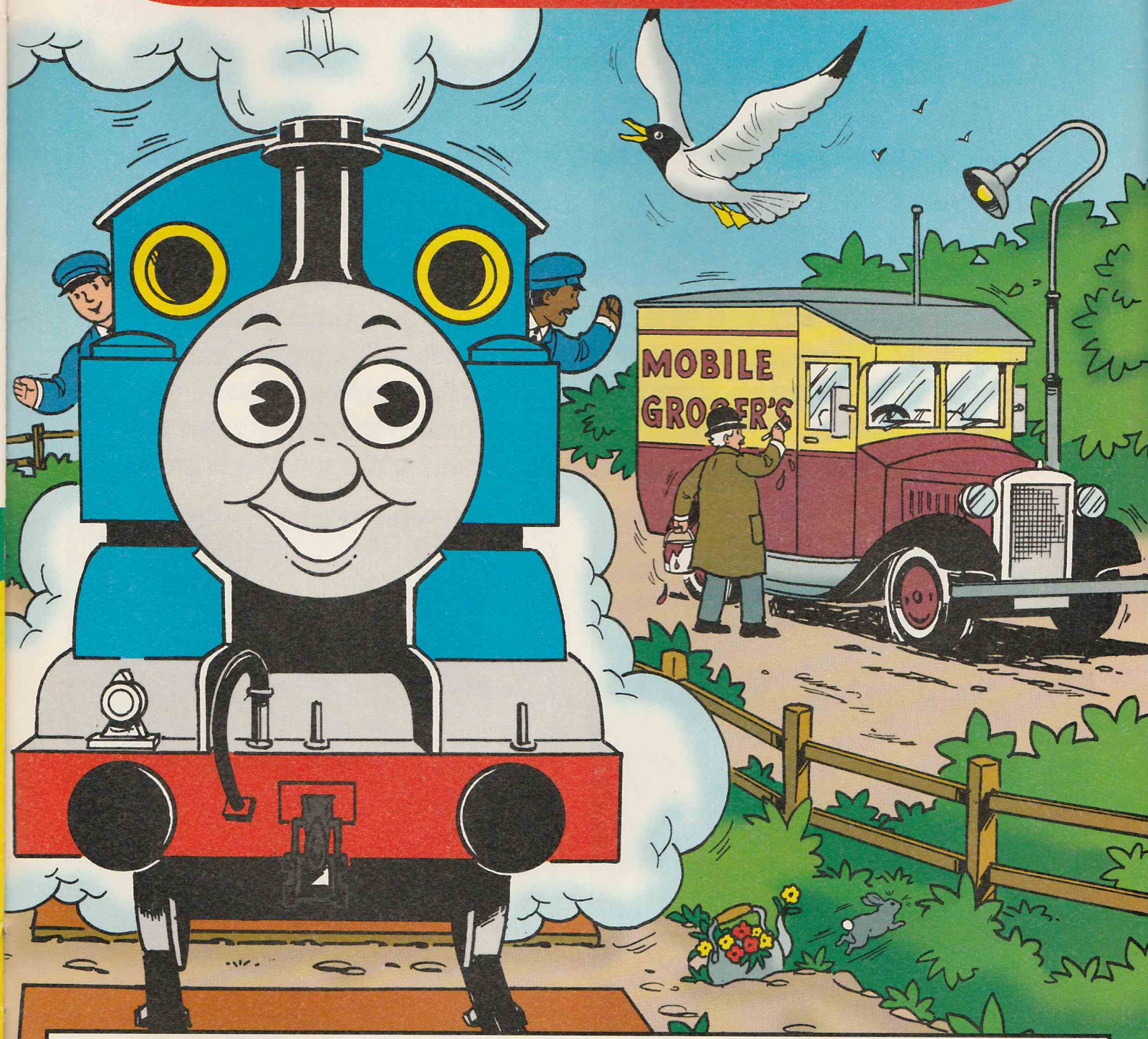
All new stories!

Competition and colouring fun!

On sale: 24th February 1996!

A LISTEN AND LEARN STORY

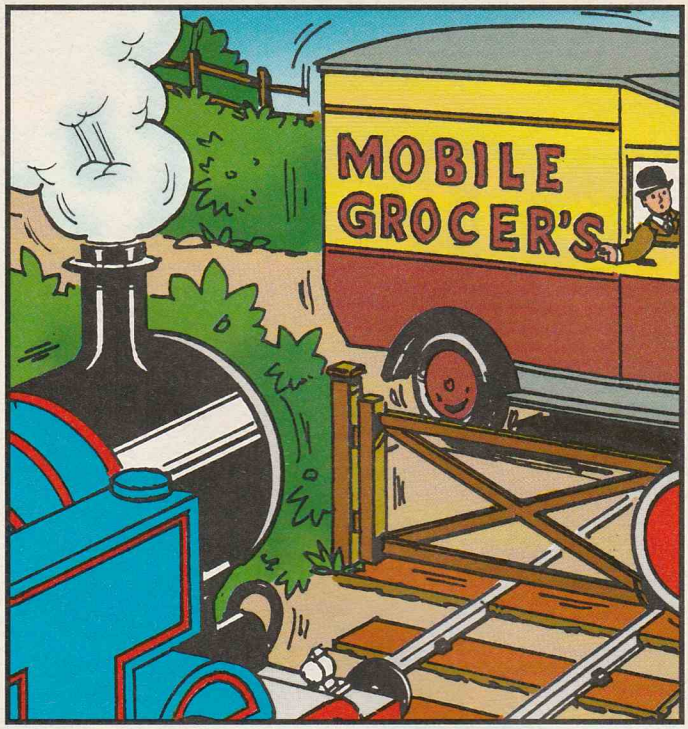
The grocer's engine!



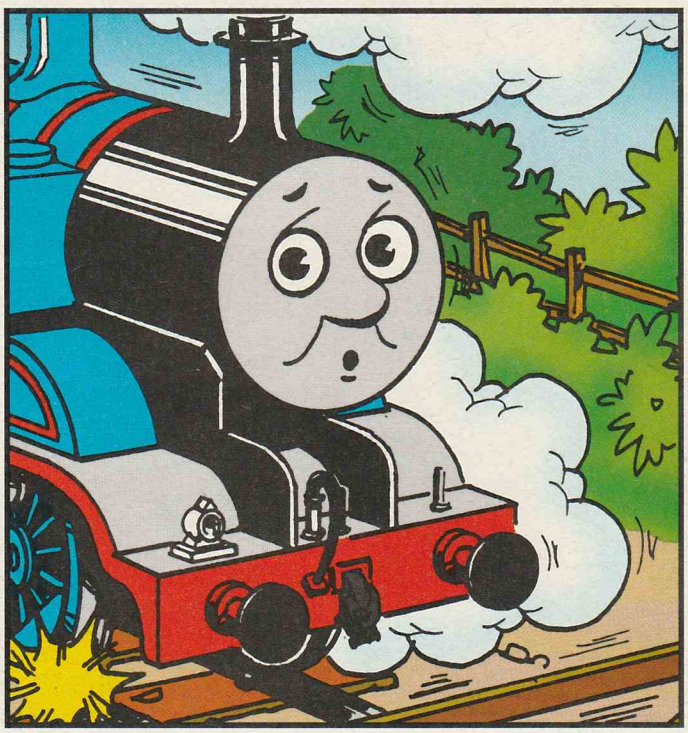
1. While Thomas worked busily on his branch line, he often whistled to Mr Binns' grocery van. It took all sorts of supplies to people who lived a long way from any shops.

2. "That van will look almost as smart as me!" Thomas laughed, one day. He had spotted Mr Binns painting a bright new sign on the van. It read "MOBILE GROCER'S".

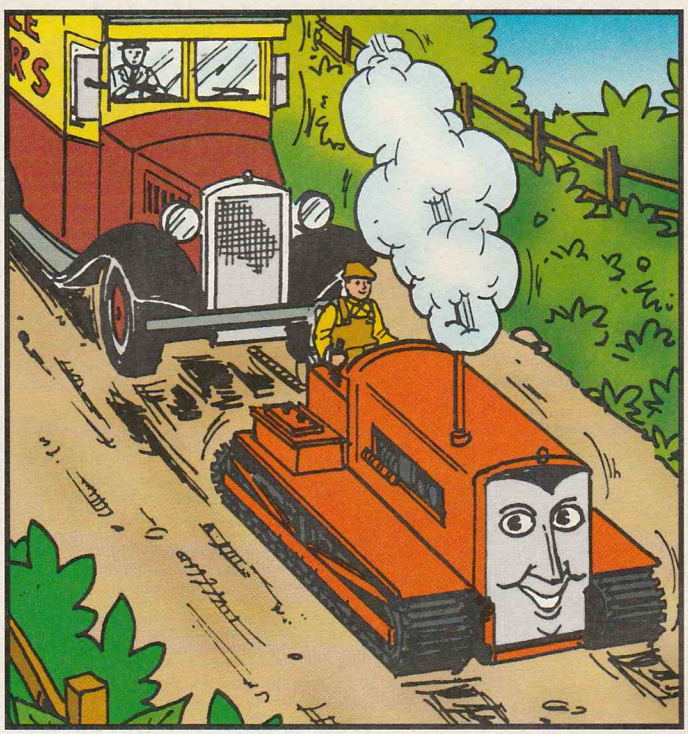
3. "'Mobile' means it moves," the driver said. "Mr Binns will be on his rounds soon. He drives his shop to his customers!" "What a Really Useful van," thought Thomas.



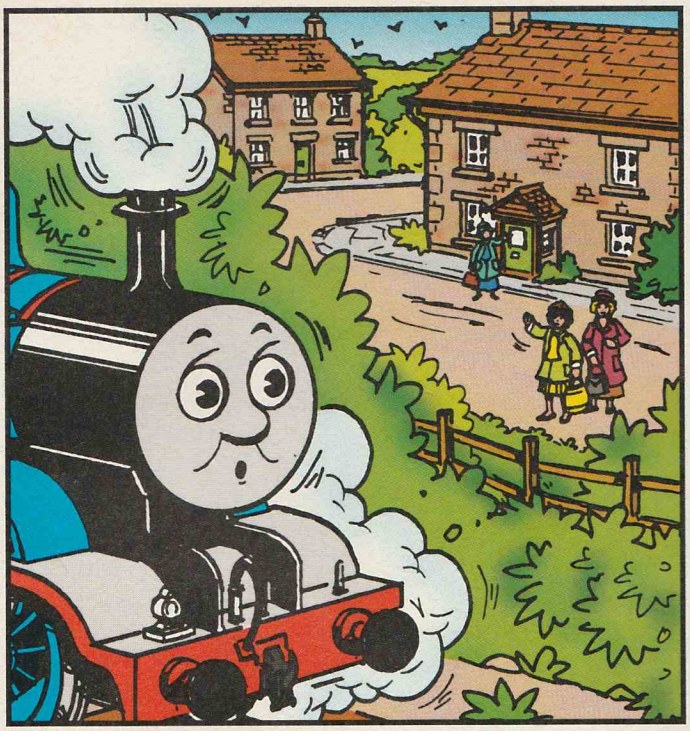
4. "It delivers goods, just like I do," he added, puffing past. On the way back, Thomas had a shock. Mr Binns' van was parked across the line on an unmanned level crossing.



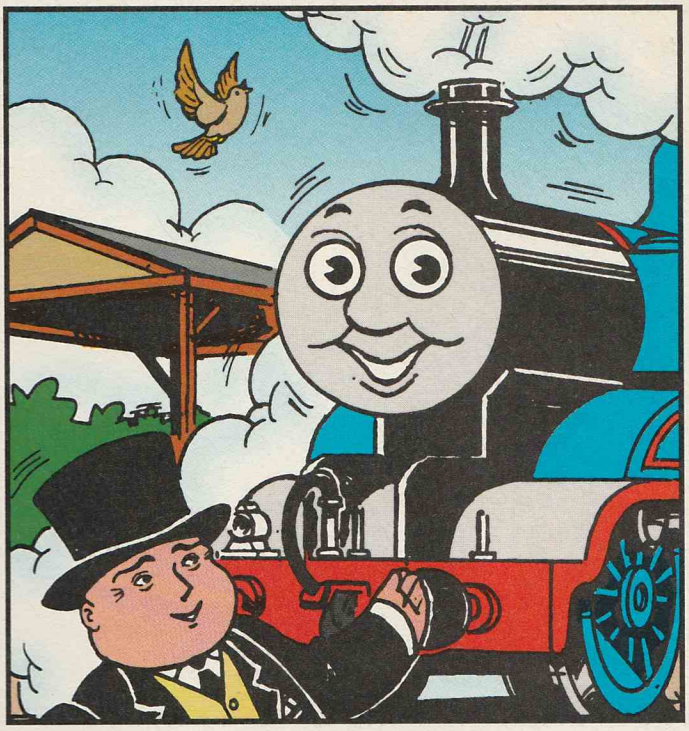
5. Mr Binns sounded the van's motor-horn loudly to try and warn Thomas. His driver urgently shut off steam and Thomas braked so hard he thought he would blow a piston.



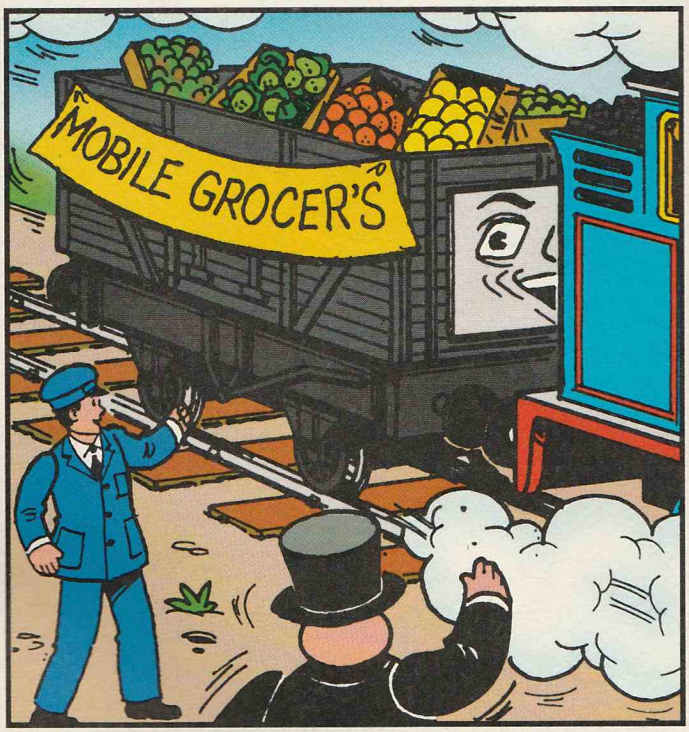
6. Thomas squealed to a halt just in time. "Thank goodness!" called Mr Binns. "My van's broken down!" Terence the Tractor was sent for, to tow the van to the nearest garage.



7. "Oh, dear!" said Thomas. "How can people get their groceries now?" Next day, people from far away farms and cottages were waiting for Mr Binns' van to arrive, as usual.

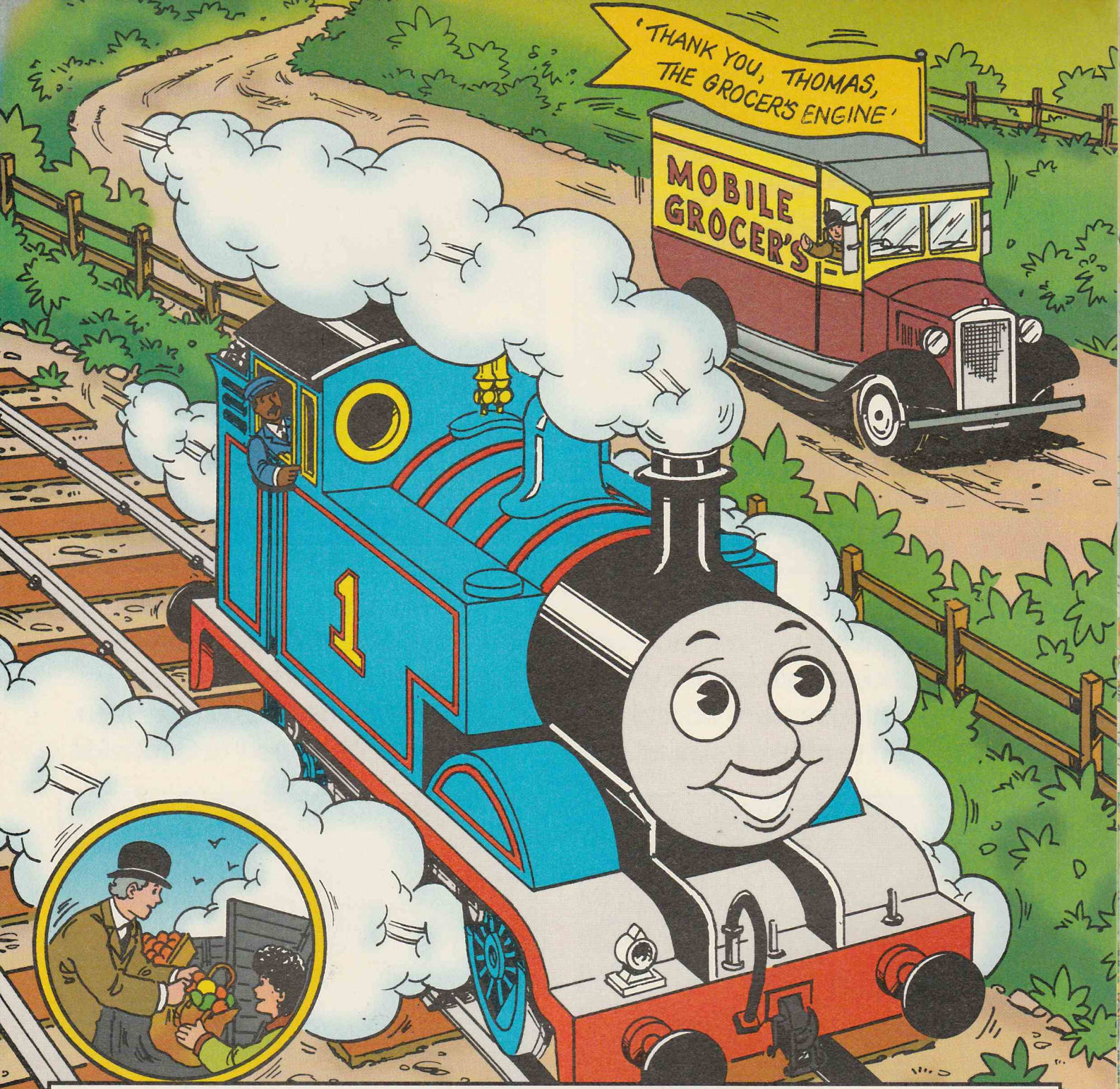


8. "He won't be coming," called Thomas's driver. "There must be something we can do," said Thomas. Then he had a clever idea. Later, he spoke to the Fat Controller.



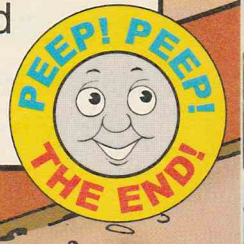
9. Everything was arranged very quickly. A truck was coupled onto Thomas. Then Mr Binns' supplies were loaded aboard. At last, Thomas was ready to leave.

10. The Fat Controller rang all the farmers and villagers. "The groceries are on their way," he said. The delighted people came to meet Thomas at the country stations.



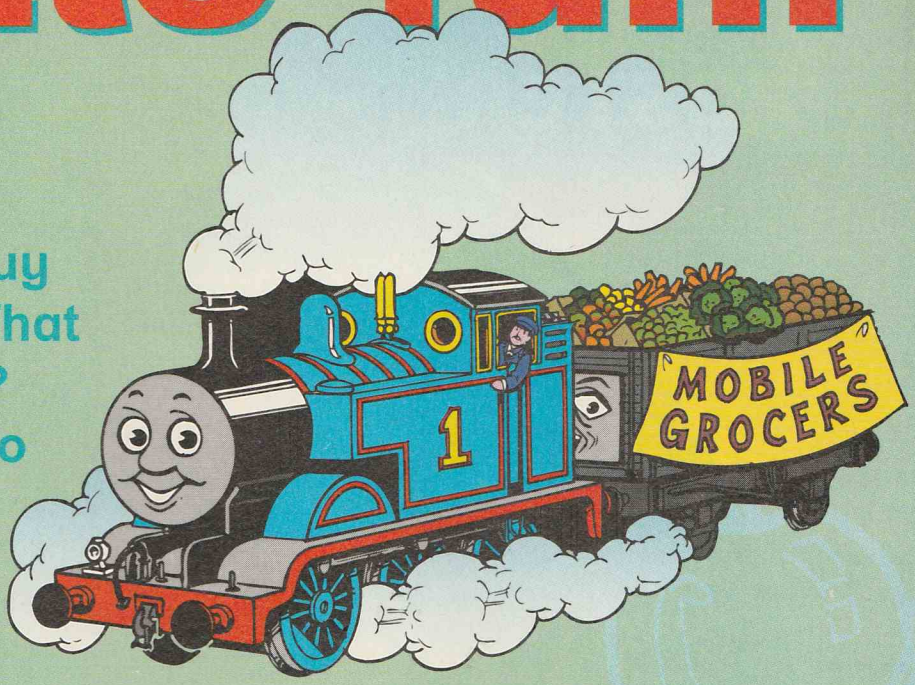
11. Thomas took Mr Binns, too. He sold his goods from Thomas's truck. "I'm a travelling shop today," said Thomas, happily. Even the truck behaved well and was pleased to help. Mr Binns said there were lots of customers. He sold them bread, butter, ham, eggs, vegetables, fruit, cheese and all sorts of other food. "I like this job," smiled Thomas,enjoying himself.

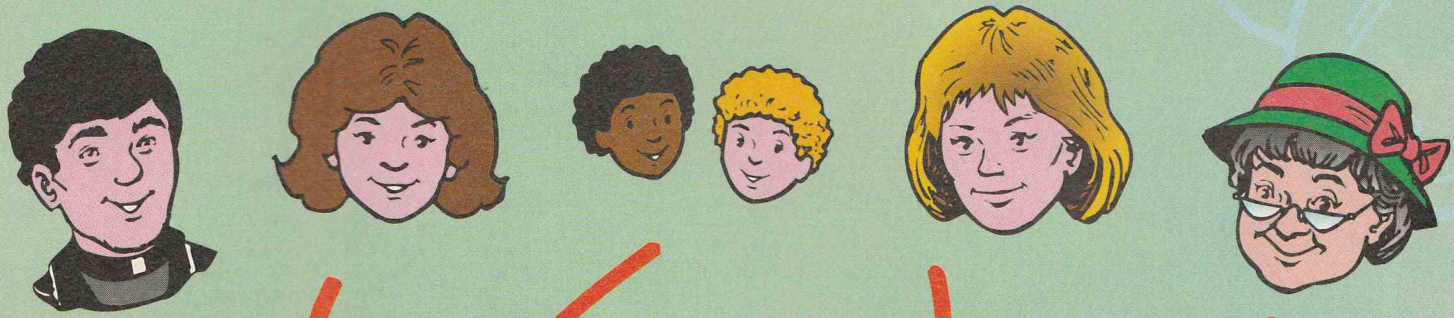
12. Mr Binns sold all his groceries. Afterwards, he gave the engine crew a pie each for all their hard work. "It's a pity Thomas eats coal," joked Mr Binns. "I'd like to thank him, too." A week later, when Mr Binns' van was back on the road, Thomas glowed with pride as he saw it had a new sign. It said 'Thank you, Thomas, the Grocer's Engine!'

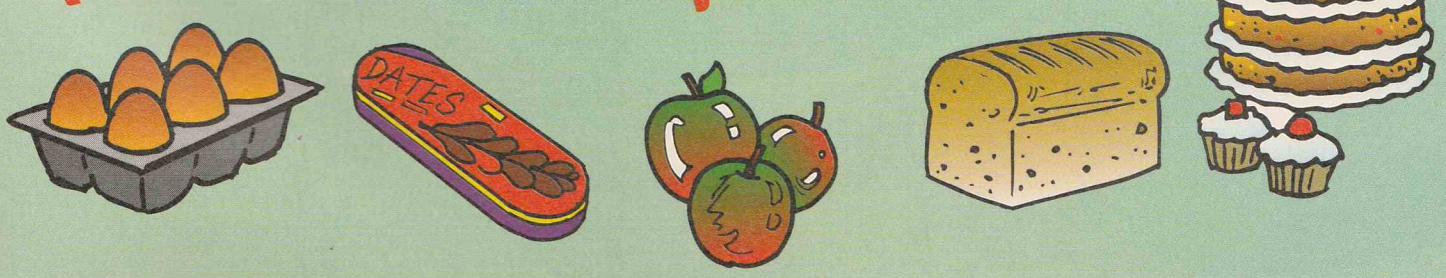


Puzzle fun!

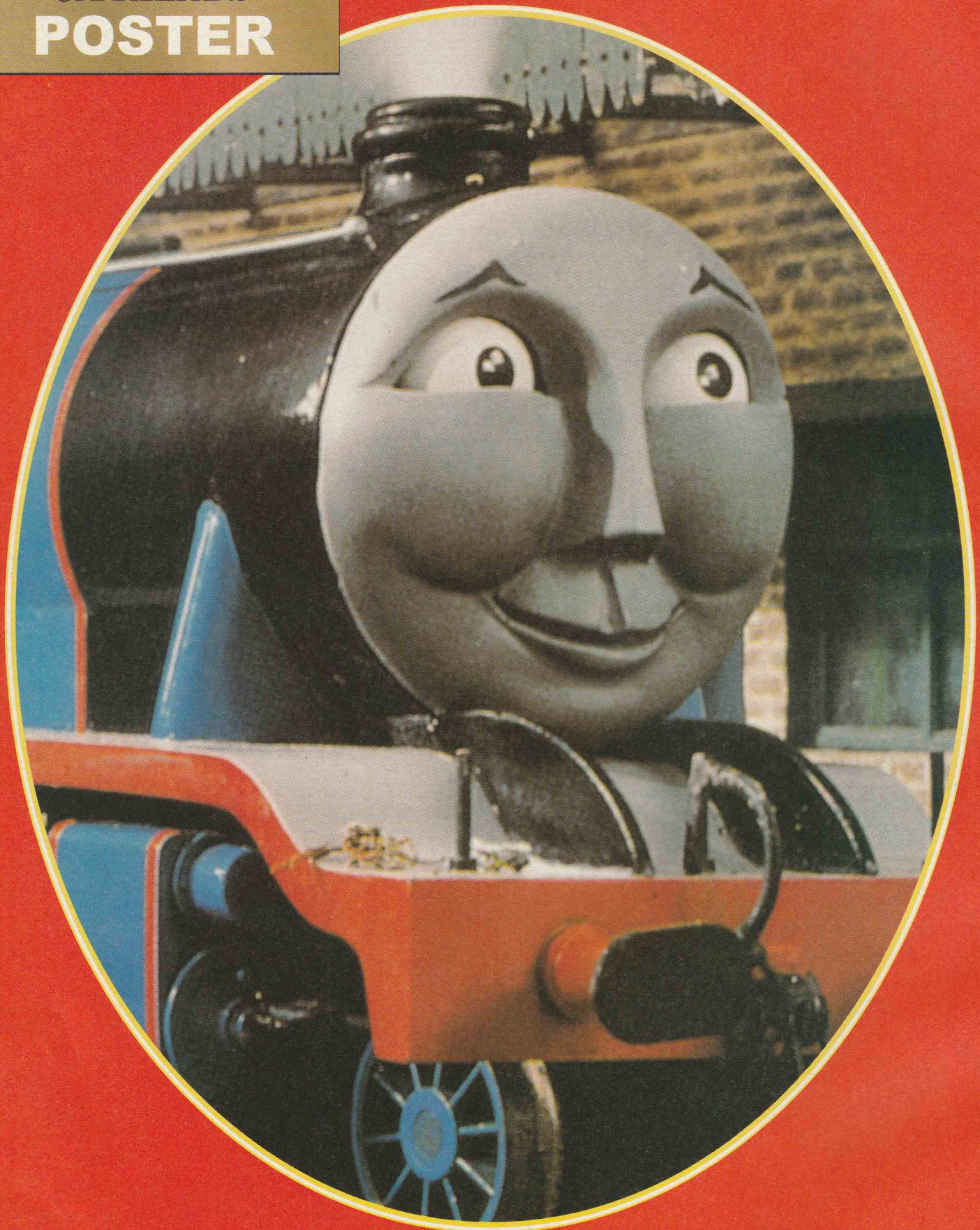
Thomas is the grocer's engine today! Lots of people have come to buy something from him. What does each person buy? Follow the wavy lines to find out!







THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS POSTER



Gordon